

[ 1 ] *R Africa Co & Royal*  
*Trade under the*  
*Charter of 1672*  
THE  
CASE

OF THE

Royal *African*-Company



AND OF THE

PLANTATIONS.

THE Trade to *Africa* is not Ancient, having not been discovered  
120 Years.

No *European* Nation has, or ever could, get any Trade in *Africa*,  
but such as first got a Footing and Possession of the Coasts, and fortified 'em.

Each *European* Nation appropriates to themselves, the Trade of their own  
fortify'd Territories; *Excluding all others.*

When the *Dutch* and *French*, and *Portuguese*, endeavoured to fortifie the  
*African* Coasts, and engross the whole Trade to themselves; The *English* Nation, at  
the sole Expences of the *Royal African-Company*, and those from whom they  
claim, struck in, and struggled, and got a Footing, and fortified some few places,  
without which, Britons had been wholly excluded from that Trade.

To Encourage the *English* to get and secure the Trade, by building Forts and  
Castles, which were at First, and still continue, undoubtedly Necessary to bridle  
and awe the Natives, and to exclude other *European Nations*, It was Necessary that  
those that Adventured should be Owners and Proprietors of the Lands on the Coasts  
of *Africa*; else who would Adventure their Estates, if others might run away with  
the Purchase.

The Crown therefore granted several Patents to several successive Sets of Ad-  
venturers, who, at vast Charges, made no further Progress than to build 3  
small Forts; And, at last, the whole Undertaking centred in the present  
*African-Company*, by Letters Patents, dated in 1672.

By this Charter, the Crown granted to the Company, all the Coasts and Lands in *Africa*,  
between the Port of *Sally* and the *Cape of Good Hope*, to the Intent they might, by  
Fortifications, get the Trade, and secure it from the *Dutch* and other *Europeans*.

The Company, so long as they continued undisturbed, were Vigorous and Success-  
full; they got Possession of the most beneficial Places on the *African* Coasts and for-  
tify'd 'em: In 16 Years, they built 14 New Forts, and enlarged the three old  
Ones to treble what they were before.

By these Fortifications, the Company excluded the *Dutch* and other *Europeans*  
from Trading in their Territories; they bought Negroes cheap in *Africa*, and  
afforded and sold 'em cheap in the Plantations. This



*This Cheapness of Negroes was the very Root that Caused,  
 Such an Improvement and Growth of the Plantations,  
 Such an Exportation of British Manufactures,  
 Such an Importation of Sugar, Tobacco, Bullion, and other Products of America.  
 And,  
 Such an Increase of Shipping and Navigation for those Purposes.*

*That the Plantation Business became the most Flourishing and valuable Branch of the whole British Trade; and conduced very much towards the Ballance of our Trade with other Nations.*

*For the Space of 25 Years now last past, the Trade in the Company's Territories in Africa hath been broken into and laid Open, partly by Interlopers, and partly by the Traders, called the Ten per Cent. Men, under an Act of Parliament which expired on the 8th of July, 1712.*

*The Company humbly conceive, they are Purchasers, and that it's hard, their Territories, so purchased and fortified at their immense Charges, should be Invaded and Violated by their Fellow-Subjects, under the Notion of Free and Open Traders, when at the same time those Free and Open Traders, or an Act of Parliament, could not, nor can lay Open, or trade in the Territories of the Dutch, French, or other European Nations, nor can have any Pretence so to do.*

*The Excessive Dearness of Negroes in Africa, and selling 'em dear in the Plantations, is the bitter Fruit of this Open Trade; for the Open Traders vying and striving with the Company, and with one another, who shall give most, hath exalted the naked Africans, and raised the Price of Negroes, to the Intollerable Rate they are now at.*

*This Dearness of Negroes hath cut off the very Spring and Sapp that nourished the Sugar Plantations, it has discourag'd and disabled the Planters, a great Part of the Plantations lye Uncultivated.*

*The raising and making of Sugar; the Shipping and Navigation; the Exportation and Importation; and the Revenue by Customs, are by this Dearness of Negroes decreased one Third, and must all of 'em decline, so long as this Confusion in Africa continues.*

*The Sugar Plantations must be exceeded and beaten out by the French, Dutch, and Portugeze: For their Sugar Plantations (upon the Declination of the British) begin to Rise and Flourish.*

*The Gold Mines in Africa, if Industriously search'd for and wrought, wou'd undoubtedly prove of mighty Advantage to this Nation; but they can never be possessed or improved by Transitory Traders.*

*To Remedy these Evils, the Company hath consented to, and taken New Subscriptions for a large Addition to their present Stock, by which they will be Effectually enabled to retrieve the Trade; to reduce the High Price of Negroes in Africa; to exclude other Nations from Trading in their Territories, and to Supply the Plantations and the Contractors for the Assiento, with sufficient Numbers of Negroes at moderate Prices.*

*But none of these Things can ever be Effected, or the Evils remedy'd; so long as the Trade lyes open and unsettled, or whilst the Interlopers (pretending to be Free and Open Traders and by giving high Prices and Bribes) truckle*



to the Natives, and make 'em seem in their own Eyes, Great Potentates; because that *Capital Error* in Trade, in all Times, hath, and for ever will, cause the Dearness of Negroes, and as the Fruit and Effect of it) the Decay of the Plantations.

Therefore, for improving the American British Plantations, by reducing the Excessive Price of Negroes in *Africa*, and selling them at reasonable Rates to the Planters; and to the Contractors for the *Affiento*, which will enlarge both the *African* and *American* Trades; and will thereby encrease, not only the Exportation of the Woollen and other *British* Manufactures, but the Shipping and Navigation of this Kingdom; and for the Improvement of the *African Gold Mines*; and for the Enabling the Company, by their Fortifications, to Exclude from Trading in their Territories, the Dutch, French, Portuguese, and other European Nations, in like manner, as those Nations, by Fortifications, exclude Britons from Trading in their Territories.

*It is Humbly hoped, That an Act will pass this Session of Parliament, to confirm the Company's Rights in their African Lands and their Trade to Africa Exclusive; and for making their Remedies, to defend the same, Effectual, according to their Charter, with such other Convenient Provisions, as shall conduce to the Ends aforesaid.*



